

# German labor official recognized

## Augel's work kept thousands employed

By **ARTHUR McQUEEN**  
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The drawdown of U.S. military forces in Germany since 1992 has affected the jobs of thousands of valued local national employees. But thanks to a Labor Ministry official, 7,500 displaced workers have found work in the private sector or with other military organizations.

Roswitha Augel's efforts to link workers with new jobs resulted in her earning the U.S. Army Commander's Award for Public Service, the fourth highest award the Army gives to civilians.

Richard J. Beresford, U.S. Army, Europe, assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel, presented Augel with a certificate, lapel pin and medal July 20 at the offices of the German Ministry for Labor, Social Services, Family and Health, overlooking the state capital for Rhineland-Pfalz.

Beresford, the highest-ranking civilian in the personnel field for USAREUR, completed a year-long embassy-level submission process for Augel's award, begun by his predecessor.

He thanked Augel for her efforts and said she contributed to the continued cooperation and friendship between Germany and the United States.

"She established the process of bringing together private industry and the government," Beresford said.



**ROSWITHA AUGEL**

Augel worked to unit the efforts of German companies, social and political groups, trade unions, works councils and the Army in finding continued employment for displaced but valued workers, Beresford added.

Rhineland-Pfalz State Secretary for Labor, Social Services, Family and Health, Dr. Richard Auernheimer, witnessed the award presentation and said Augel, his deputy department chief, will continue to help people in her new position as "Referenzleiterin fur Arbeitsmarkt Politik," which loosely translates as "Supervisory Branch Chief for Job Market Politics."

"It is an honor (for Augel to receive the award)," Auernheimer said. "It was so important for the families involved during the historic changes in the U.S. military presence here. We

are satisfied that these difficult processes were done correctly, with the interests of the people affected, to create a high quality of life for the future."

Augel downplayed her role. "I was a worker bee," she said. "Once the decision was made to assist the displaced workers, we worked hard to find firms with jobs for them; every worker had different qualifications and desires."

Augel made it clear the process had been trying at times even when successful; she wrung her hands as she described the closing of Bad Kreuznach, former headquarters of the 1st Armored Division.

"There were more than 300 employees affected in that situation, and the relationship was very strong. The U.S. Army was literally a piece of the city, fully integrated into the life of Bad Kreuznach," she said.

Augel said the personal friendships she formed with industry leaders and members of the U.S. armed forces were an unexpected benefit to her job.

"I always found very engaging partners in the Air Force and Army to work with," she said. "The process was always positive. Everyone had a desire to help those displaced, and we were able to help so many people."

Augel said the award was for the ministry as a whole, thanking her colleagues and partners.

"This is for the team and the ministry," she said, "We could not have done it without the ministry and the financial means to accomplish this task. It was money well spent."